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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2352

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STADIS FOR NEA//////////

E.O. 12065: GDS 2-21-85 (AMSTUTZ, J. BRUCE) OR-M

TAGS: -EAID, PEPR, SOPN, AF, US

SUBJ: (S) U.S.-AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: (A) KABUL 1209, (B) KABUL 1302, (C) KABUL 1267,  
(D) KABUL 1217

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SINCE WE SENT IN THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN REF A, YOU HAVE HAD A REPORT OF MY CONVERSATION WITH AMIN (REF D), AMIN'S PRESS CONFERENCE (REF C) AND THE KABUL TIMES STORY (REF B) STATING THAT OUR NOTE OF PROTEST HAS BEEN REJECTED. WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THE DRA'S OFFICIAL REPORT ON THE INCIDENT PROMISED BY AMIN. COOPERATION BY OUR SECURITY OFFICERS WITH POLICE, RE OUR INVESTIGATION INTO THE INCIDENT, HAS BEEN UNSATISFACTORY. DEPENDING ON THE CONTENTS OF THE AFGHAN NOTE WHICH WILL APPARENTLY BE DELIVERED IN WASHINGTON, I AM NOW OF THE VIEW THAT OUR RESPONSE MUST GO WELL BEYOND THE RECOMMENDATIONS WE MADE IN OUR EARLIER TELEGRAM (REF A).

3. I BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE FOLLOWING:

A. THE SUSPENSION OF OUR AID PROGRAM TO AFGHANISTAN AND

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THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE AID MISSION. ALTERNATIVELY, WE COULD

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SUSPEND NEW OBLIGATIONS, SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE AID MISSION, AND ONLY CONTINUE PROJECTS FOR WHICH FUNDS HAVE ALREADY BEEN OBLIGATED. THE SECOND ALTERNATIVE MIGHT ALLOW US TO KEEP A FOOT IN THE DOOR. I TEND TO FAVOR THIS STEP. ON THE OTHER HAND, WITHOUT THE PROSPECT OF NEW PROJECTS AND ADDITIONAL MONEY, THE DRA MIGHT WELL SO RESTRICT OUR REMAINING PRESENCE THAT EVEN ONGOING PROGRAMS WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE. IT COULD ALSO LEAVE OUR AGRICULTURAL TEAM IN THE HELMAND VALLEY IN A VERY EXPOSED POSITION.

A. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO DISCUSS WITH PEACE CORPS WASHINGTON THE DESIRABILITY OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF. WE REALIZE THIS MAY BE A TICKLISH ISSUE IN WASHINGTON, BUT THE DRA FOR MANY MONTHS HAS EVINCE LITTLE OR NO INTEREST IN THE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM.

C. CANCELLATION OF THE ICA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO AFGHAN TELEVISION AND POSSIBLY SUCH OTHER ICA ACTIVITIES AS OUR IV PROGRAM. THE AFGHAN-AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION (AFAMEC) WHICH THE AFGHANS ARE DE FACTO NOT RECOGNIZING, SHOULD BE CANCELLED. I RECOGNIZE THAT ALL OF THIS COULD LEAD TO FURTHER RESTRICTIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT ON ICE ACTIVITIES AND POSSIBLY STEPS TO CLOSE OUT ICA ALTOGETHER.

4. I HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WITH THE DIRECTORS OF OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE COUNTRY TEAM, SINCE I BELIEVE THE DECISIONS TO BE MADE ARE ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL. IF THE DEPARTMENT IS STRONGLY CONSIDERING ANY OF THESE MORE DRASTIC STEPS, I WOULD HOWEVER WANT TO DO SO (ESPECIALLY WITH USAID ACTING DIRECTOR CYLKE, PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR ROCKWOOD, AND PAO LYDON) TO GET THEIR REACTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS. THERE MAY BE CONSIDERATIONS I HAVE OVERLOOKED OR BEEN

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UNAWARE. JANE COON CONCURS. AMSTUTZ

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